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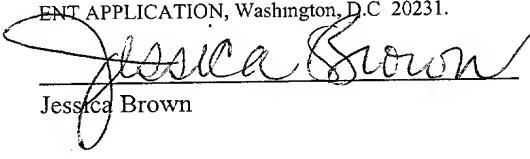
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I hereby certify that this correspondence and identified enclosures are being deposited on December 28, 2001, with the U.S. Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Address" service, No EL920452358US under 37 C F R. § 1.10, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box PATENT APPLICATION, Washington, D.C. 20231.

  
Jessica Brown

December 28, 2001

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box PATENT APPLICATION  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Client: San-A Patent Attorneys  
Matter No. 500014-93  
U.S. Patent Application  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSING ABNORMALITY  
AND ESTIMATING DEGRADATION IN VALVE APPARATUS  
Subject: Transmitting Patent Application for Filing

Sir:

We enclose for filing the patent application of:

Inventor(s): Haruo ITO, Susumu WATANABE and Tomoaki SUMITA  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSING ABNORMALITY AND  
ESTIMATING DEGRADATION IN VALVE APPARATUS

The application includes:

Cover + 29 pages of specification, claims and abstract;  
Six (6) sheet(s) of drawing(s);  
Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition;  
Information Disclosure Statement with two (2) references;  
Check No. 024463 in the Amount of \$1,020.00 for Filing Fee;  
Assignment Papers for Recordation and check no. 024462 for \$40 recordation fee; and  
Return Postcard

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Commissioner for Patents  
December 28, 2001  
Page 2

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

	No. Filed	No. Extra	Small Entity	Other Than Small Entity
Basic Fee	\$740.00			\$740
Total Claims	14	0		
Ind. Claims	2	0		
Multiple Dependent Claims - 2				\$280
TOTAL				\$1,020

We authorize the Commissioner to charge any additional filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, which may be required now or during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 16-2230. We enclose a duplicate copy of this sheet.

Please stamp the filing date on the enclosed post card and return it to us.

Sincerely,

  
Guy Porter Smith  
**OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY LLP**

GPS/jb

Enclosures

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

**UTILITY  
PATENT APPLICATION  
TRANSMITTAL**

Attorney Docket No. **500014-93**First Inventor **Haruo ITO**Title **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
DIAGNOSING ABNORMALITY AND  
ESTIMATING DEGRADATION IN VALVE  
APPARATUS**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Express Mail Label No. **EL920452358US****APPLICATION ELEMENTS**

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

Commissioner of Patents

ADDRESS TO: Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 20231

1.  \*Fee Transmittal Cover Letter (e.g. PTO/SB/17)  
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2.  Applicant claims small entity status. (See 37 CFR 1.27)
3.  Specification Total Pages (Cover + 29)  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
  - Descriptive title of the invention
  - Cross References to Related Applications
  - Background of the Invention
  - Brief Summary of the Invention
  - Detailed Description of the Drawings
  - Claim(s)
  - Abstract of the Disclosure
4.  Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) Total Sheets (6 -- Figs 1-6)
5.  Oath or Declaration
6.  Newly executed (original)
  - i.  DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
7.  Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76
8.  Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
(If applicable, all necessary)
  - a.  Computer Readable Copy
  - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
    - i.  CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
    - ii.  Paper
  - c.  Statements verifying identity of above copies
9.  Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10.  37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement  Power of Attorney  
(when there is an assignee)
11.  English Translation Document (if applicable)
12.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449  Copies of IDS Citations
13.  Preliminary Amendment
14.  Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
15.  Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS**

9.  Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10.  37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement  Power of Attorney  
(when there is an assignee)
11.  English Translation Document (if applicable)
12.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449  Copies of IDS Citations
13.  Preliminary Amendment
14.  Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
15.  Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

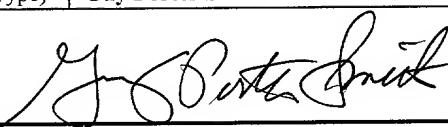
17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheets under 37 CFR 1.76

Continuation  Divisional  Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior application information: Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_ Group / Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

**18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

<input type="checkbox"/> Customer No. or Bar Code Label				or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below	
(insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)					
Address	Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP, 2029 Century Park East, Suite 3800				
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Country	United States	Telephone	(310) 788-5000	Fax	(310) 788-5100
Name (Print/Type)	Guy Porter Smith		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	20,142	
Signature				Date	December 28, 2001